

RIVER THAMES SHOALS 2021

Many River Thames lock sites, especially in the upper reaches of the river, had become affected by the steady increase in shoals building up in either the head or tail lock cut. The primary risk was that the Navigation channel was becoming narrower and shallower.

Land & Water were awarded the contract after a competitive tendering process, under its framework agreement to undertake works to remove the shoals, translocating the material where possible.

There were nine sites identified by the Environment Agency for targeting along the Thames River. Prior to commencement, bathymetric surveys were undertaken and the resulting data used to pinpoint specific high and low spots.

Starting upstream, to allow for disturbed material to be collected as works progressed, two knock down pontoons with spud legs to aid stability were deployed with 7t long reach excavators fitted to remove material from the riverbed. These two teams were each serviced by a 'river class' tug. Three LAWS hoppers were used to maximise efficiency with a third tug to act as a safety vessel.

Using our own experienced operators LAWS could maximise efficiency reducing over dig, under dig and spillage from the bucket. Where placement was to lower bed level areas the key was to place accurately then trim and level requiring skill and methodical approach.

This equipment also meant that travel between sites could be by river as the spud legs could be laid down to pass under bridges reducing the need to be demobilised from the water to relocate at each site.



Project Particulars

Client: Environment Agency
July - December 2021



VALUE: £525,000

Find us on the internet at

www.land-water.co.uk

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